

Message Text

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46

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 IO-11 A-01 MMO-01 AID-05 USIA-06

SP-02 /047 W

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P 031428Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9529

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 4922

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: AMERICAN RED CROSS LOCATOR ASSISTANCE TO EMBASSY REFUGEE
SECTION

1. REFUGEE SECTION HAS BEEN ENDEAVORING TO VERIFY CLAIMED
CAT I RELATIONSHIPS BY DIRECT PHONE CALLS TO THE RELATIVES
IN THE US. THIS SYSTEM IS EXTREMELY EFFICIENT FOR THOSE
FOR WHOM WE ARE ABLE TO CONTACT BUT WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO
GET THROUGH TO REFUGEES IN THE US ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF THE CASES.
PHONE CALLS HAVE AN ADDITIONAL UTILITY OF WEEDING OUT
FRAUDULENT CLAIMS INSTANTLY.

2. WE LACK, HOWEVER, A FALL-BACK SYSTEM FOR CONFIRMING
RELATIONSHIPS WHEN PHONE CONTACT CANNOT BE MADE. LETTERS
ARE UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE OFTEN THE ADDRESSES ARE NO
GOOD AND LETTERS ALSO PERMIT A CERTAIN INCIDENCE
OF FRAUD CLAIMS.

3. OUR RECOMMENDED APPROACH WOULD BE TO EXPEDITIOUSLY
ENLIST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
IN VERIFYING RELATIONSHIPS FOR PURPOSES OF PAROLE
CONSIDERATION. THE MOST EFFICIENT SET-UP WOULD BE
TO USE AMERICAN RED CROSS MAN PRESENTLY AVAILABLE
IN THAILAND. THERE ARE ABOUT SIX AMERICAN RED CROSS
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REPRESENTATIVES STILL IN-COUNTRY. THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS HAS GIVEN US AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDING ONE RED CROSS OFFICIAL TO WORK IN THE REFUGEE SECTION.

4. BUREAUCRATICALLY, THE REQUIRED ACTION IS FOR THE AMERICAN RED CROSS REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN HAWAII TO AUTHORIZE THE THAILAND COUNTRY DIRECTOR TO PROVIDE A RED CROSS OFFICER TO THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION.

5. ACTION REQUEST: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION WITH THE RED CROSS TO EFFECT THIS ASSIGNMENT.

6. A RED CROSS OFFICIAL WORKING DIRECTLY IN THE REFUGEE SECTION WOULD CABLE NAMES OF RELATIVES IN THE US DIRECTLY TO LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTERS IN THE US, OBTAINING THE NEED TO GO THROUGH DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL. CONFIRMATIONS OF RELATIONSHIPS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTERS ON-THE-GROUND INTERVIEWS AND THE RESULTS CABLED BACK THROUGH RED CROSS CHANNELS TO THE RED CROSS OFFICER IN THE REFUGEE SECTION.

7. A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ABOVE IS TO HAVE A RED CROSS OFFICER WORKING WITH ORM IN WASHINGTON BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE USE OF DEPARTMENT CABLE CHANNELS TO WASHINGTON, AND IS THUS LESS DESIRABLE. AN ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGE OF HAVING RED CROSS OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE REFUGEE SECTION IS THAT HE WOULD WORK FULL-TIME ON REFUGEE MATTERS AND BE RESPONSIVE TO OUR REQUIREMENTS ON A DAILY BASIS. THE RED CROSS, OF COURSE, INSIST ON BASIC OFFICE SUPPORT WHICH WE WILL BE GLAD TO PROVIDE.

8. THE RED CROSS HERE IS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS IDEA BECAUSE PRESENTLY ALL SIX OFFICERS HANDLE REFUGEE RELATED MATTERS ON A PART-TIME BASIS. ASSIGNING AN OFFICER FROM THE RED CROSS TO THE REFUGEE SECTION WOULD CENTRALIZE ALL AMERICAN RED CROSS REFUGEE SUPPORT FUNCTIONS UNDER THE OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE REFUGEE SECTION WHICH IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE RED CROSS AND THE EMBASSY.
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WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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